

## **Have you ever thought of running for elected office here in Belmont? If you're a registered voter, there are many opportunities open to you**

The Town of Belmont's elected government consists of an Executive branch, comprised of seven independently elected multi-member Boards, Commissions and Committees and two elected full-time employees (Town Treasurer and Town Clerk), as well as a Legislative branch called the Representative Town Meeting, comprised of one Moderator, some of the town-wide elected officials and 288 elected Town Meeting Members (36 from each of our eight voting precincts).

Each year, seats in these elected bodies are open for election; sometimes an incumbent will choose to run for re-election but no one holds or owns a seat without running for re-election; each open seat must be won. Typically the term for these Town-wide officials is three-years, however the Housing Authority is a five year term and the Moderator is a one year term. Town Meeting Member terms are for three years, unless there is an early resignation by a Town Meeting Member, leaving a vacancy for the remainder of the original member's three year term. Town Meeting is the body that votes on the budget and all of our General Bylaws and Zoning By-Laws.

Getting your name onto the ballot is relatively simple:

- Appear in person at the Town Clerk's office, present your identification, complete the nomination form and take the appropriate number of nomination papers
- Circulate the papers among your friends, acquaintances and neighbors or complete strangers, making sure to confirm with the signer that he/she lives in Belmont and is a registered voter. If you are running for Town Meeting, be especially careful to collect signatures only from voters of your precinct.
- When collecting signatures, allow for drop-offs such as non-voters, voters of another precinct or illegible signatures
- For Town-wide offices, collect at least 60 signatures of Belmont registered voters to be certain you'll have enough to make the necessary 50 certified signature minimum.
- For Town Meeting Member, collect at least 32 signatures of Belmont registered voters only from your precinct to be certain you'll have enough to make the 25 certified signature minimum
- After Town Meeting Members who are seeking re-election have informed the Town Clerk (by January 27, 2015) the list of partial term openings will be made available
- **By 5pm on February 17, 2015**, turn in the signed nomination papers to the Town Clerk (acting as a member of the Board of Registrars) for certification of the signatures
- Nomination papers are certified in the order they are received
- Once the signatures are certified by the Town Clerk and the minimum has been met, your name will appear on the ballot for April 7, 2015 Town Election and you'll be notified

- Educate yourself on the campaign finance laws for the Commonwealth of MA (refer to the Town Clerk's webpage [here](#) for resources)
- Set up your campaign committee, if you choose to form one, by filing with the Town Clerk
- Begin campaign activities and pay attention to campaign finance report deadlines

The Town Clerk's webpage <http://www.belmont-ma.gov/town-clerk> contains information and links for precinct maps, campaigning, campaign finance, names of voters, election day activities and prohibitions, etc. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's office at (617) 993-2600 or send an email to [townclerk@belmont-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@belmont-ma.gov). Minutes of individual Boards, Commissions and Committees are also accessible through the Town's website [www.belmont-ma.gov](http://www.belmont-ma.gov) to help educate the public and candidates about the activities of the governmental body.

<b>Town-wide Offices on Ballot</b>		<b>Term</b>
Moderator	Vote for One	1 Year
Board of Selectmen	Vote for One	3 Years
Town Treasurer	Vote for One	3 Years
Board of Assessors	Vote for One	3 Years
Board of Cemetery Commissioners	Vote for One	3 Years
Board of Health	Vote for One	3 Years
Housing Authority	Vote for One	5 Years
Trustees of the Public Library	Vote for Two	3 Years
Members of the School Committee	Vote for Two	3 Years

Representative Town Meeting  
Town Meeting Members

Openings to appear on the April 7, 2015 ballot  
12 members in each of the eight voting precincts